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MINNESOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

VOLUME 2

ST. PAUL, MARCH, 1909.

No. 9

MARGARET J. EVANS, Northfield, *Chairman.*
GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN, Minneapolis.
CYRUS NORTHROP, Minneapolis.
C. G. SCHULZ, St. Paul.
WARREN UPHAM, St. Paul.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, *Secretary.*
MARTHA WILSON, *Librarian.*
MIRIAM E. CAREY, *Organizer.*

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Bretton Woods Conference.

The A. L. A. Bulletin announces that the thirty-first annual conference of the American Library Association will be held at Bretton Woods, N. H. during the week of June 28 to July 5, 1909. Headquarters will be at the Mt. Washington Hotel with the Mt. Pleasant, under the same management, available if necessary, just across the narrow valley and within ten minutes walk.

Not only is Bretton Woods in the very heart of the White Mountains, in the shadow of Mt. Washington with surpassing attractions of its own, but the Travel Committee suggests post-conference plans for a four or five days coaching trip through the mountains, with a few days at some pleasant Maine coast watering place.

Program. It is planned to have four general sessions, two, including the first or opening session, to be of a somewhat miscellaneous character. The central thought of

the other two sessions is Co-ordination and Correlation of effort between,

- (a) libraries.
- (b) libraries and schools.

(a) One whole session. Will involve a discussion of such questions as (1) Storage libraries in relation to "live" and "dead" books and to problems of book selection and elimination. (2) Libraries as reservoirs for large districts; County Libraries, etc.; Clearing Houses.

(b) One whole session. Co-operation between Libraries and Schools; a resumé of the work which has been done, and discussions of the possibilities of its extension and improvement.

At the remaining session it is proposed to have among other things (1) a Book Symposium devoted to,

- (a) Technical Literature.
- (b) Recent Books for Boys.

(2) Suggestive Problems of a public library of medium size.

Interesting programs are being prepared by the several sections and affiliated societies. The League of Library Commissions will devote one session to reports of standing committees on publications, traveling library reports, commission work in state institutions and essentials of a model commission law, and a second session to work in the field, including a series of personal experiences East and West.

Hotel Rates. At the Mount Washington. One in a room without bath \$3.50 to \$4.00 per day.

(A limited number of small single rooms in towers and on ground floor at \$3.50 per day.)

Two or more in a room without bath, each \$3.00 per day. One person in a single room with bath, \$6.00 per day.

The rate for bath for two or more persons, is \$2.00 per day additional, whether it is attached to one room, two rooms or a suite.

(Thus two rooms with bath between, occupied by four ladies or four gentlemen will cost each person \$3.50 per day. One room with bath occupied by two will cost each person \$4.00 per day.)

At The Mount Pleasant.

Two in a room without bath, each \$3.00 per day.

Three or four in large room without bath, each \$2.50 per day.

Same rate for bath as at the Mount Washington.

Rooms may be reserved in advance at any time by addressing the Secretary, J. I. Wyer, Jr., State Library, Albany, N. Y., stating accommodations desired, price per day, time of arrival (as near as possible), wishes or arrangements as to room-mate and the likelihood of joining the "mountain and shore" post-conference coaching party under the personal conduct of Mr. F. W. Faxon, Chairman of the Travel Committee.

Full announcement of arrangements will be given in the May number of the A. L. A. Bulletin.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the Minnesota Library Association held at Minnetonka last June, an invitation from Duluth for the next annual meeting of the association was referred to the Executive Committee. This committee held a meeting March 16th, at which it was unanimously decided to accept the invitation and preliminary arrangements for the meeting were discussed. For a number of years the A. L. A. has sent a speaker to represent the association at the various state meetings, and it is hoped that Minnesota may be included in this circuit this

year. The time of the meeting will probably be the last of September or first of October, but will be adjusted to suit the convenience of the outside speaker.

Although Duluth is situated at a considerable distance from many of our libraries, it is expected that the remarkable growth of library interest in this part of the state, together with the many attractions of the city itself and its neighborhood, will insure a large attendance. Following the session an excursion to some of the mining-towns on the Range has been proposed and librarians are urged to keep the meeting in mind in making plans for the summer.

ROUND TABLE MEETINGS.

The Commission is making plans for a number of local library meetings in various parts of the state. The plan is to bring together a group of librarians and trustees from libraries in the same neighborhood for a day's conference at the library which is most conveniently located. There will be no papers and no formal program but simply an informal discussion and interchange of experience on the problems of everyday work. A list of topics will be sent out with the invitation for the meeting, asking those who propose to attend to check on the list the three subjects which interest them most.

Arrangements have already been completed to hold one of these meetings at Sleepy Eye on the afternoon of May 13th, following the District meeting of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, and at Fairmont on May 14th, or 15th. Both these meetings will be conducted by the Secretary of the Commission.

It is also hoped that a meeting may be held in the extreme Southwestern part of the state, and another at Litchfield.

The following is the outline of topics proposed for discussion.

Round Table Topics.

Book-selection:

How I select books.
Where we buy books, and how.
Recent books.
New fiction.
Children's books.

Reference Work:

Reference books most used.
Building up the use of magazines.
Periodical indexes.
Bound magazines—what are most useful?
Circulation of magazines.
Assistance to readers.

Binding:
Mending books.

Extension Work:
Advertising the Library.
Rural loans.
More than one book to a borrower.
Work with schools.
Lectures and Exhibitions.

Children in the library:
Discipline.
Care of books.

Administration:
Fines and penalties.
Hours of opening.
Business methods.
The accession book.

LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS.

The midwinter meeting of the League of Library Commissions was held in Chicago, January 4-6, 1909, at the Stratford Hotel. There was an average attendance at all the sessions of nearly 50, representing ten library commissions. Minnesota was represented by Miss Countryman, Miss Baldwin, Miss Wilson, Miss Carey and Mr. H. W. Wilson.

Three regular sessions were held, devoted to reports of standing committees, a round table report of recent activities undertaken by various commissions, discussion of library commission laws, parcels post, and other problems of interest to commission workers. A meeting of the Executive Board of the League was also held for discussion of the A. L. A. program, necessary changes in the constitution and other matters of business.

The members of the League were the guests of the Chicago Library Club at a reception at the Chicago Public Library and the Library Bureau entertained the visiting librarians at a delightful luncheon given at their factory on Diversey Boulevard. The guests were conveyed to the factory in automobiles, and after luncheon were personally conducted through the factory where the various processes used in constructing library furniture were shown.

SUMMER SCHOOL 1909.

The Summer School for Library Training will be held as usual under the auspices of the Commission at the State University, June 21 to July 30, 1909.

The course is open only to those holding library positions or under definite ap-

pointment to such positions, and the applications already received point to a large attendance from the newly organized libraries and those which are being re-organized, while a number of enquiries have also been received from librarians outside the state. There is no tuition fee for students holding positions in Minnesota, but a fee of \$10 is paid by those registered from other states.

The course will be under the general direction of the Secretary of the Commission who will also give the lectures on organization and administration. Miss Martha Wilson, Librarian of the Commission, will give the instruction in cataloging and reference work. The lectures on classification and public documents will be given by Miss Miriam E. Carey, Organizer of the Commission. For the course in book-selection and use of books, including children's books, the Commission has been fortunate in securing the services of Miss Harriet Wood, librarian of the Public Library at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Miss Wood is a graduate of the New York State Library school; has made a special study of the subject of book evaluation and has had advantages of training and experience in both large and small libraries, which give promise of a course practical in application and broad in scope.

Other special lectures may be arranged, and the afternoon series of lectures given before the University Summer School will be open to students of the library course as in former years.

An important feature of the school will be the visits to the libraries of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Stillwater for practical demonstration of the methods used in different kinds of libraries, to the binderies, bookshops, and the publishing house of the H. W. Wilson Company.

Full announcement, with information regarding registration, rooms and board, will be issued shortly.

INSTITUTION LIBRARIES.

One of the claims upon its resources which the Minnesota Commission recognizes, is that of the readers housed in the various state institutions, such as the reformatory, the state prison, the hospitals for the insane and other classes who are segregated for one cause or another.

It has been with increasing interest that the Commission, through its secretary, has kept in touch with the library activities of these places, an interest which resulted in the resolution to include them in the field which has occupied the energies of the Commission and to labor in that field for them on the same terms that are offered to public libraries.

There are collections of books in most of these institutions, the largest one being at the Stillwater prison. At this institution, during the month of February just past, there was a population of 706 of whom 524 were readers, that is, users of the library. The following report may be of interest as showing not only what is read, but that the library is carried on systematically:—Fiction, 1,149; History, 49; Biography, 13; Travel, 58; Essays, poetry, drama, 43; Arts, 18; Sciences, 38; Sociology, 18; Religion, 21; Ethics, 5; Bound periodicals, 211; Reference, 9; Foreign, 17; Total, 1649. In addition, the library issued and recorded 3,500 unbound periodicals, and managed an exchange of newspapers amounting to 33,000. Quite an active library!

Another very active library center is the School for the Blind at Faribault, which has done much pioneer work in the circulation of books in New York point throughout the state, besides regularly and systematically issuing reading matter to the students in residence at the school.

At the Institution for Feeble-Minded there is a collection of books well-selected and graded for the use of the pupils of the school. The charging system is an interesting one, as each child who "joins the library" signs a card on which he promises to take good care of the books.

There are excellent libraries at the School for the Deaf, the State Public School, and the State Training School, showing that the value of books as part of the equipment necessary for good work at each institution has been recognized by those in authority. It is not to be forgotten in considering this subject that there are plenty of persons at these places who wish to read, so that the effort to create the reading habit which is so necessary in most places is not so pressing among these who have comparatively few resources for recreation and improvement.

It has also been the custom to place libraries in the hospitals for the use of those inmates who are in condition to read. At the Hospital for the Insane at Fergus Falls there is a good collection centrally placed in a room accessible to the inmates. At Rochester there is also a constant use of the books, while periodicals are distributed on the wards, as is also the custom at the hospital at St. Peter. The crippled children who are cared for in the institution located at St. Paul have a good collection of books which were donated some time ago. These facts show that libraries are felt to be essential in these fields as well as elsewhere.

The facts that such a large percent of the population reads and that so much money has been expended for books would seem to place the libraries of the institutions on the same footing with others in the state which need the assistance of the Commission. As the value of the book as a moral and spiritual agent cannot be denied, it is natural and suitable that the Commission should endeavor to assist these institutions, as it does more fortunate sections of the state, to get the best possible results from their collections of books.

Miss Miriam E. Carey, the newly appointed organizer of the Commission, who is the pioneer worker in institution libraries, has visited the Minnesota institutions since taking up her work in the state and several institutions have already applied to the Commission for assistance. Miss Carey has spent most of the month of March in organizing the library of the St. Cloud Reformatory.

PICTURE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

The action of the Boston Herald in discontinuing the Comic supplement has met with universal approbation from librarians, teachers and careful parents. The inanity and coarseness of the "funny paper" is only equalled by the vulgarity of drawing and the crudity of color and both are an offense to a sense of decency and taste. It is to be hoped that public sentiment may be aroused against this evil and that the "comic nuisance" may be abated.

The abundance of illustrated books for children, rich in color, abounding in humor,

makes the colored supplement the more obnoxious by contrast, and its existence the more unnecessary.

The question of furnishing picture books to the youngest patrons of the library is one that demands attention and to assist in this work the Commission has built up a collection embracing the various types of illustrated books and showing characteristic work of representative artists.

Notable among the English artists represented are the books illustrated by Kate Greenaway, who has been called the Pre-Raphaelite of the nursery, and whose work in depicting children not only introduced a new manner in books for the little folks, but also changed the style of children's dress in her period.

Walter Crane is shown in his famous picture books, full of imagination and color.

Arthur Rackham gives the immortal Alice yet another guise, but one rightly to be ranked with the best of her illustrators, and the spirit of Peter Pan is shown in all of its witchery and charm.

Leslie Brooke's animals appeal to the sense of humor and the Caldecotts, so gay and jolly, give new lustre to the old tales.

The French illustrated book is typified in the work of Boutet de Monvel with the flat, poster effects, and Hans Andersen's fairy tales have found their most sympathetic interpreter in the work of the Danish artist, Hans Tegner.

The various types of the American illustrators work are shown in number. The atmosphere and idealism of Maxfield Parrish render more alluring Field's Love songs of childhood, and there are the very real modern children of Jessie Wilcox Smith and Elizabeth Shippen Green, the Deming Indians, the Brownies, perennially dear to the heart of the child and the serio-comic Goops teaching their lessons in a jest.

From this list typical groups will be loaned to any library in the state for exhibit, with the hope of awakening interest in this class of books, both for the library and the home.

M. W.

List of Picture Books.

Adelborg—Clean Peter.
Book of horses.
Book of ships.
Book of the zoo.
Book of trains.
Boutet de Monvel—Joan of Arc.

Brooke—Johnny Crow's garden.
—Johnny Crow's party.
—Story of three little pigs.
—Tom Thumb.
Bradley—Peter Poodle; toy maker to the king.
Burgess—Goops and how to be them.
—More goops and how not to be them.
Caldecott—Collection of pictures and songs 2v.
—Farmer's boy.
—Frog he would a-wooing go.
—Hey diddle diddle; and Baby Bunting.
—House that Jack built.
—Ride a cock horse.
—Sing a song of sixpence.
—Three jovial huntsmen.
Carroll—Alice in Wonderland; il. by Rackham.
Circus book.
Cox—Another Brownie book.
—Brownies abroad.
—Brownies around the world.
—Brownies at home.
—Brownies; their book.
—Brownies through the Union.
Crane—Baby's opera.
—Baby's own Aesop.
—Baby's own alphabet.
—Beauty and the beast picture book.
—Bluebird's picture book.
—Flora's feast.
—Goody two shoes picture book.
—Masque of days.
—Mother Hubbard; her picture book.
—This little pig; his picture book.
Deming—Little red people; il. by E. W. Deming.
—Red folk and wild folk; il. by E. W. Deming.
Dick—Bilberry wood; il. by Elsa Beskow.
Ewing—Lob-lie-by-the-fire; il. by Randolph Caldecott.
Field—Poems of childhood; il. by Maxfield Parrish.
Foster & Greenaway—Day in a child's life.
France—Filles et garcons; il. by Boutet de Monvel.
—Nos enfants; il. by Boutet de Monvel.
Francis—Book of cheerful cats.
Gerson—Happy heart family.
Giddy go round; il. by Madeline Hall.
Greenaway—A apple pie.
—Marigold garden.
—Under the window.
Guigou & Vimar—L'illustre dompteur.
Haines—Little people of Brittany; il. by Anita LeRoy and E. A. Hunt.
Hitch—Wee folks' alphabet.
Hoffman—Slovenly Peter.
Jerrold—Book of nursery rhymes; il. by Charles Robinson.
La civilité.
La Fontaine—Fables; il. by Boutet de Monvel.
Mavor—English spelling book; il. by Kate Greenaway.
Mother Goose in silhouettes cut by Katherine Buffum.
Mother Goose—Only true Mother Goose melodies.
O'Dea—Jingleman Jack; his pictures and rhymes.
Our doggies (Linen).
Our farmyard (Linen).
Our little ones' object book.
Peary—Children of the Arctic.
Poulisson—Runaway donkey.
—Through the farmyard gate.
Praegar—Adventures of three bold babes.
Rossetti—Seventeen lyrics from Sing song; music by Sidney Homer.
Sage—Rhymes of real children; il. by J. W. Smith.
Saxby—Life of a wooden doll.
Smith & Green—Book of the child with stories and verse by Mabel Humphrey.
Soldiers of the king.
Soldiers of the world.
Upton—Adventures of two Dutch dolls and a Golliwog; il. by F. K. Upton.
—Vegemel's revenge.
Wain—Catland A. B. C.
Weatherly—Book of gnomes; il. by E. S. Hardy.

TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES.

The biennial report for 1907-8 has been distributed and shows the progress of the work of the traveling library department during the last two years. A notable increase is that of the circulation of reference material in various ways, magazines from the clearing house and single books for individual calls, groups of books for students working for credits at the University or along technical lines, and collections for study clubs. The libraries loaned to women's clubs reached the number of 52 for the season of 1908-9 and through these there were distributed 1467 books, 253 magazines and pamphlets and 2894 pictures.

The advance registration for club libraries for 1909-10 is now 27 and points to still further use of these libraries for the coming year. There are still a number of desirable libraries available, but clubs are advised to send in their subjects as soon as possible, in order to have choice of those remaining.

The number of books in the general loan collection on agriculture has been enlarged and from these groups have been loaned. Any rural community wishing books of this nature may have a group of six included with any traveling library without extra charge.

The demand for books in foreign languages grows steadily, and additions are to be made at once in Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish. About 200 of the best German books were purchased in 1908 and these have been arranged in traveling libraries and groups. The collection consists largely of fiction by representative authors, but contains also biography, some poetry and drama, history and travel including books in German concerning America.

These libraries are designed to be of use, not only to the rural communities, but also to supply the needs of the German readers in the towns, and it is hoped that the smaller libraries will take advantage of this opportunity to test the usefulness of foreign books.

MAGAZINE CLEARING HOUSE.

Owing to the limited space in the room occupied by the Clearing-house for periodicals, the Commission has found it necessary to reduce the number of magazines kept to those most in demand by the libraries of

the state. The number of volumes retained of the more popular magazines for which there has been less demand for binding by the libraries, has also been cut down, and there are on hand a number of volumes of Munsey, McClures, Cosmopolitan and the American Review of Reviews, of which the Commission is eager to dispose.

Many complete volumes are represented in this lot and as some disposition must be made of them at once, libraries are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to complete their files without delay. Lists of wants should be sent in and these will be filled as far as possible, and magazines will be sent as usual for the transportation only.

AIDS TO LIBRARIANS.

Arbor Day and Bird Lists. The A. L. A. Publishing Board announces reprints of the Arbor day list at 5 cents, each, or \$1.25 per 100 in lots of 50, and of the Bird book list, at 10 cents each. These lists first appeared in the A. L. A. Booklist for March and April 1906, but librarians may be glad to obtain duplicates for distribution to teachers. If copies of the list are checked to show the material available in the library, and all this material is gathered in a convenient place, it will facilitate the work of teachers and librarians in preparing for Arbor and Bird Day.

Information for Immigrants. Enquiries have come from librarians for material in foreign languages on the laws and customs of the U. S. for the information of newly arrived citizens. The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has published a pamphlet entitled *Information for Immigrants* in Bohemian, German, Dano-Norwegian, Swedish, Italian, Polish and other languages. These may be obtained from the Bureau for distribution without charge. A pamphlet on *Naturalization of Aliens in the U. S.* published by the same Bureau is as yet available only in English, but is being translated and prepared for the printer in a number of different languages. Mrs. Mary F. Severance of St. Paul has recently issued a very attractive pamphlet entitled *A guide to American citizenship* containing information concerning the journey to America, the laws governing the admission

of immigrants, and those pertaining to homesteads and naturalization, advice as to settling, and useful tables of money values, postal-rates, etc., followed by the constitution of the U. S. and a directory of asylums, homes and hospitals in New York, Charity and Christian Associations in all the states. This very useful pamphlet has already been translated into German and Italian, and it is hoped that it may also be issued in Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish. The pamphlet may be obtained through any book dealer for ten cents.

Tag Day for Libraries. The Commission is often asked for suggestions as to ways of raising money and there seems to be no reason why the "Tag Day" method so successful for other purposes should not be used for libraries. In this connection the Iowa Library Quarterly reports that at Sheldon, Iowa, a tag day was held and about \$250 raised to buy furniture for the new Carnegie library. Word is also received that \$200 for the book fund was raised by means of a tag day at Provo City, Utah, the tag used being a card about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, bearing a picture of a book.

Government by Commission. The Public Library of Rockford, Illinois, has issued a list of material bearing on the new form of municipal government known as "government by commission." A bill authorizing this form of government in all Minnesota cities has recently passed the Senate, and to meet the demand for information on this subject which will undoubtedly follow, the Commission will endeavor to collect all available material to be loaned to libraries in cities where the plan is being considered.

Minnesota Blue-book. The Legislative Manual for 1909 has been issued, but it is probable that the distribution to public libraries may be delayed until the appearance of the Executive Documents late in the summer. Many libraries will undoubtedly secure copies immediately through the courtesy of their senators or representatives, and any librarian who wishes to obtain a copy at once may do so by sending 29 cents for postage or prepaid express to the Document Clerk, State Capitol, St. Paul.

It is commonly agreed that there is as much instruction and profit, aside from the very important and legitimate feature of

recreation, in good fiction as may be gotten from any other class of books. It should, however, be a matter of pride with every library in the country that the presence of any work of fiction on its shelves shall be a guarantee of its wholesomeness, and, to a certain extent, of its literary quality.

—Public Libraries.

PERSONAL.

Miss Anna C. Hanson, who has been librarian at Two Harbors for the past three years, resigned her position in February, and expects to take a trip abroad. The Two Harbors Journal expresses the regret of the citizens and of the board at her departure, and their special appreciation of her efforts in securing the Carnegie building. Miss Bessie P. Hall, late of Minneapolis, has been appointed her successor.

Mrs. Harriet Campbell, librarian at Bemidji, has resigned her position. Mrs. Jean Donald has been elected to succeed her temporarily and Miss Beatrice Mills has been made assistant. Miss Mills will take the library course at the summer school to qualify for the position of librarian when the new building is opened.

The Zumbrota library board has lost a most efficient member in the death of Mr. J. H. Farwell. It was largely due to his untiring efforts as president of the village council that the Carnegie building was obtained, and the library board in a recent resolution expressed their feeling of gratification that he had left to the village this fitting and enduring monument.

In writing of the death of Mr. Arthur Cole, Chairman of the book-committee of the Austin Public Library, the librarian pays this fine tribute to an ideal library trustee—"It will be hard indeed to find any man so well qualified for a member of our library board as he has been. He always took an intelligent interest in everything pertaining to it, and always found time in his busy life to do his part, all of it, and do it well. I feel that I have lost a valued friend, and the library a very efficient adviser."

NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

Aitkin. The collection of sketches of Venice, by F. Hopkinson Smith, loaned by the

Library Commission was on exhibition at the library the first week in March.

Albert Lea. A bequest of \$200 was made to the Public Library by Mrs. Hannah Epping. The money has been placed by the board in an endowment fund with the hope that this fund may be increased from time to time until it may yield a sufficient revenue for the purchase of books.

The exhibit of etchings loaned to the library by the Commission in March was made the occasion of a number of special visits to the library. The students and faculty of the college came in a body, a special evening was given to each of the clubs, and another to the Luther Academy pupils and teachers.

Alexandria. The directors of the Alexandria Public Library have had an excellent portrait made of the late F. B. Van Hoesen, who left a bequest of \$5,000 to the library a year ago. The portrait, which will be hung in the east reading-room of the library, was painted by Robert Koehler of Minneapolis.

Anoka. The appropriation of the Anoka Public Library from the county commissioners of Anoka county has been increased to \$250 for the year 1909.

Austin. During the exhibition of the Keppel etchings at the Carnegie Library, Rev. Mr. Knopf gave two very interesting talks which added considerably to the appreciation of the exhibit and knowledge of art in general.

Big Falls. A library association has been organized at Big Falls. The library is located at the hotel in connection with the traveling library.

Blackduck. A library and reading-room was opened on March 20th by the girls' club. 142 volumes have been donated by citizens, and these added to the hundred books given by the Commission, and traveling libraries loaned makes a very creditable showing. A board of five members has been appointed, and the council has appropriated \$10 a month to pay for rent and lights.

Brainerd. The exhibition of Venice pictures visited Brainerd the latter part of March.

Breckenridge. The first annual report of the library started by the P. E. O. Society is an encouraging one. 257 books have been acquired and the total circulation for the year has been 1,356, not including books loaned from the traveling library.

Brown's Valley. About \$500 was raised by subscription to start the library. This sum has made it possible to keep the reading-room open every evening, and to purchase \$100 worth of books. A library benefit on Lincoln's birthday was largely attended and resulted in an addition to the treasury of \$30.

The question of levying a tax for library purposes will be submitted to the voters at the coming election.

Brownston. The study club has obtained over 100 books to add to the traveling library, and these are now housed in a room of their own. An unsolicited gift of 50 volumes of the best recent books has been received from Rev. H. U. Swinnerton of Penn Yan, N. Y., who became interested in Brownston's library beginning through a newspaper article.

A valentine social was given for the benefit of the library Feb. 12th.

Crookston. "The Library of Home Economics" in 12 volumes has been presented to the library by the Matrons' Club.

Miss Carey, the organizer of the Commission, spent a week in Crookston assisting Miss Lommen in revising her records.

Detroit. A reception was given by the Library Club at Hotel Minnesota on January 8th, with the object of acquainting the general public with the aims and needs of the library. Mr. J. K. West and Rev. E. M. Hullott spoke on the value of a public library from the standpoint of a business man and a professional man, respectively. Mrs. E. J. Bestick gave a very clever history of the work done by the Library Club, and Miss Baldwin of the Library Commission spoke on the Modern library movement. Following the program refreshments were served, and in response to the statement of Mrs. Bestick, showing the condition of the treasury, a subscription list was passed around with the result that over \$200 was raised, which amount has since been increased to over \$400.

Fairmont. The centenary of Lincoln's birth was celebrated at the library when a fine portrait of Lincoln recently purchased by the library board was unveiled, and Mr. W. L. Lamb, president of the Library Board, delivered an address.

Glencoe. The Glencoe Library Association engaged the Hutchinson Dramatic Co. to present David Harum at the city hall in

Glencoe. Resolutions expressing the thanks of the Association, emphasized the existence of a highly desirable inter-community spirit between Hutchinson and Glencoe.

At a recent meeting of the Commercial Club, Mr. F. R. Allen, president of the library association responded to the toast "The Public Library" in which he gave a strong plea for adequate support of the library as an educational factor.

Glenwood. The rooms in the basement of the library which are rented by the Library Board to the Commercial Club have been thrown open as a rest room for farmers and their wives.

Mr. Fred Calmeyer has resigned his position as librarian and his successor will be required to qualify for the position by taking the summer school course.

Granite Falls. A lecture on "Our Relation with New Japan" by Mr. Kiyo S. Inui was given for the benefit of the library early in March.

Hastings. The third entertainment in the library course was given at the High School auditorium January 15th, when Frank H. Gamel presented an illustrated lecture on "The American Boy."

Hibbing. Mrs. D. C. Rood has presented the Ladies' Saturday Club with a handsome rug which now adorns the club room at the library.

Le Roy. At the annual meeting of the Library association in January, reports showed a balance of over \$500 in the treasury. It was voted to place \$400 of this in a building fund, with the expectation of adding to it each year until the sum becomes large enough to warrant the erection of a building.

A home talent musical and literary entertainment on March 12th, netted \$51.

Litchfield. "Mr. Bob" which was presented by some of the young people under the auspices of the library board was a success financially and otherwise. The net proceeds—\$146—will be devoted to the purchase of books.

Little Falls. The story-hour has been continued at the library with increasing interest and attendance. A program of animal stories was given in January.

Madison. On March 1st, "The Japanese Girl," an operetta, was given by local talent for the benefit of the Carnegie library.

Minneapolis. The library board has accepted a tender of the small library at Unity House settlement, and will maintain it as a branch under the management of the board, until a suitable location can be obtained for a permanent branch in that neighborhood.

A collection of landscapes by Henry W. Ranger was on exhibition in the art gallery in March.

Monticello. The annual home talent play given in February added more than \$90 to the library treasury.

North Mankato. At the annual meeting of the library board, it was decided to purchase a large order of new books in the near future. The report of the librarian showed an increasing use of the library, and growing interest in the association.

Northfield. On February 20th a lecture on New Zealand was given by Dr. Lyman Beecher Sperry for the benefit of the library.

The Josiah Edson Chapter, D. A. R. has decided to furnish a memorial window for the late J. A. Heywood in the new Carnegie library building.

Owatonna. The county commissioners of Steele County have again appropriated \$500 for the use of the library during the present year. New county delivery stations have been established at Bixby, Merton and Ellendale.

A story hour has been given by Miss Martha Chapin on alternate Saturdays during the winter.

Paynesville. The first report of the Paynesville Free Library Association organized last June shows a balance in the treasury of about \$90. There are 154 borrowers and 400 books were drawn during the first six months, and 600 books during December, January and February, which indicates a growing appreciation of the library. The library question will be submitted to vote at the village election in March.

Princeton. A mass meeting was held in March, for the purpose of discussing the organization of a public library.

Redwood Falls. Gov. Buchtel of Colorado gave his celebrated lecture on Abraham Lincoln for the benefit of the library on the evening of February 13th.

Red Wing. On February 1st the educators of Red Wing and all others interested in education were invited to the library for

an informal evening; at that time the collection of American etchings and photographs of the Ojibway Indians were on exhibition and the pleasure and interest of the gathering was much increased by two very delightful and instructive talks. Miss Frances Densmore gave the local coloring of the section of the country in which the photographs were taken, together with personal experiences in connection with her work for the bureau of ethnology. Mr. Chamberlain, a personal friend of Mr. Reid, the photographer, spoke of the artist, his work and the conditions under which these pictures were taken.

A Lincoln story hour was held in the lecture room at which one hundred and twenty little Lincoln lovers were present.

Mr. and Mrs. George Williston loaned for an indefinite length of time a unique pen picture of Lincoln, consisting of a written copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, from which the features of the Emancipator may be seen clearly produced by the skillful shading of certain words and letters of the text. This with the loan from Mr. Cobb of most excellent pictures of both Washington and Lincoln added much to the decorations for the anniversaries. Hon. W. H. Putnam has presented five mounted photographs of the city of Red Wing taken 35 or 40 years ago.

An exhibit from the B 7th Grade of drawings in black and white and colors was placed in the children's room the latter part of February.

The collection of 150 colored photographs of masterpieces loaned by the State Art Society was on exhibition at the library in March.

Rochester. A collection of 24 bulletins representing various periods in U. S. History, with reading lists, were on exhibition in January. The bulletins were made by the students at Pratt Institute Library School.

On February 20th, Miss Guthrie spoke to the children of the work which the settlements do for the foreign children, taking for an example the life of "Little Guiseppe," an Italian boy in Chicago.

The renting collection of fiction has proved so popular that the board has decided to increase the number of copies to satisfy the demands of those who prefer to pay

five cents rather than wait their turn in getting new fiction.

St. Cloud. The historic sword of the late Stephen C. Miller has been presented to the library.

The collection of Venice sketches loaned by the Commission was exhibited at the St. Cloud library under the auspices of the Sorosis Club.

St. James. Since St. James was mentioned in the recent report of the Commission as one of the four cities in the state of over 2,000 people, which reported no definite library interest, it is a special pleasure to the Commission to note that the library question has been taken up with enthusiasm by the newly organized Commercial Club and is being vigorously pushed by the newspapers. At a recent meeting of the club it was voted almost unanimously to ask the council to levy a tax for library purposes, but later in view of the fact that there was a strong feeling against the advisability of such action at the present time, the matter was not urged. There is evidence of much interest, however, and there is no doubt that something definite will be accomplished in the near future.

St. Paul. A story hour by Miss Grace E. Denny has been given at the library every Saturday afternoon beginning January 23rd. The room has been crowded to its utmost capacity, 300 to 400 children attending regularly. The calls for books from which the stories were taken have increased 50 per cent.

Stillwater. A story hour for younger children alternating from week to week with the story hour for the older ones has been carried on through the winter in charge of Mrs. Herbert McKusick and Miss Daisy Brown.

Taylor's Falls. Mrs. A. R. Lowell of New Millford, Pa., has presented the Taylor's Falls Library Association with forty books, chiefly current literature.

Virginia. Nearly 800 new books including over 200 Swedish books have recently been added to the library. Miss Carey, the Commission organizer spent a week in Virginia assisting Miss Dunagan, the librarian, in cataloging them. Monthly purchases of books will be made hereafter. The library has an excellent list of magazines and newspapers on the reading tables, and its patronage is constantly increasing.

Wabasha. The Ladies' Library Association has maintained a subscription library since 1871, and has acquired a library of about 3,000 volumes. Arrangements have now been made to place the library in the upper room of the City Hall, and have the library open as a reading room four nights in the week with all books and magazines free to the use of the entire public in the building, but to be loaned only to members of the library association. The ladies will purchase the books and pay the librarian's salary, and an effort will be made to sell 100 memberships at \$1.00 each to defray these expenses, and a citizens' committee will also circulate a subscription paper to raise funds for expenses. This is a step in the right direction and it is hoped that it may result in eventually placing the library under city control with an assured annual income.

Wayzata. The public library has been turned over to the village council, which makes an appropriation of \$200 a year for its support. The library was re-organized in January by Miss Carey of the Library Commission.

Wells. April 3d has been appointed as "Tag Day" for the library. The Library Board has asked the ladies of the Current

Events Club to take charge of the work and coöperate with the ladies of various churches and other clubs. The library is supported entirely by subscription and as no request for help has been made by the board for three years, a generous response is expected at this time.

Willmar. Through the courtesy of Congressman Volstead, the library has secured a number of really valuable documents on agriculture, dairying, engineering, forestry, goods roads, irrigation, live stock and other practical problems.

The fifth anniversary of the library has just passed. The reports show a steady growth each year in number of volumes and circulation. The total circulation last year was 15,489, the total for five years is 68,465, while the number of borrowers has reached 2,218.

Winona. The library has recently published lists of books on engineering and other practical lines with a view to encouraging its use by workingmen.

Worthington. The annual report of the library for 1908 shows an increase of almost 80 per cent in circulation over the previous year, and an addition of 900 volumes by gift and purchase.